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Message Text

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60
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:MJPLATT
APPROVED BY IO:ROBLAKE
ARA/CEN:DLAZAR
ARA:HARYAN
---------- 005788
O R 162115Z OCT 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 246223

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, GT, BH, UN, UK

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH GUATEMALAN VICE PRESIDENT SANDOVAL

1. GUATEMALAN AMBASSADOR ASENSIO CALLED ARA/CEN OCT 15 TO INFORM DEPARTMENT THAT VICE PRESIDENT MARIO SANDOVAL ALARCON IS IN NEW YORK AND MAY ASK FOR A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN. SANDOVAL WILL BE IN NEW YORK OCT 14-19.

2. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES SUCH A MEETING PROVIDES USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE AT HIGH LEVEL TO GOG OUR BASIC POLICY OF MAINTAINING EVEN-HANDED APPROACH TO BOTH SIDES IN BELIZE DISPUTE. SANDOVAL MAY RAISE ISSUE THAT WE ARE BEGINNING TO HEAR IN PRIVATE FROM THE GUATEMALANS, THAT U.S. HAS QUOTE ABANDONED UNQUOTE GOG IN THE U.N.
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GUATEMALANS APPEAR TO FEEL THAT U.N. BATTLE GOING AGAINST

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THEM AND RESULT WILL BE RESOLUTION THAT GOG MAY FEEL ITSELF FORCED TO INTERPRET AS QUOTE HUMILITATING UNQUOTE. GUATEMALANS HAVE SAID REPEATEDLY THEY WOULD GO TO WAR IF SUCH A RESOLUTION IS PASSED. WE VIEW THIS THREAT SERIOUSLY AND HAVE BLUNTLY TOLD GOG OF OUR OPPOSITION TO THIS COURSE. GUATEMALANS HAVE CHOSEN TO INTERPRET THIS AS INDICATIVE OF A GENERAL COOLING OF RELATIONS.

3. IF SANDOVAL ASKS FOR APPOINTMENT YOU MAY DRAW UPON FOLLOWING: U.S. REMAINS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE USE OF FORCE TO SOLVE THIS DISPUTE. WE BELIEVE DIRECT NEGOTIATION BETWEEN UK AND GUATEMALA OFFERS BEST CHANCE OF A LASTING SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD SATISFY ALL PARTIES. SUBMISSION OF DISPUTE TO INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE APPEARS TO US A PROMISING ALTERNATIVE AND WE HAVE RECOMMENDED IT TO BOTH SIDES. U.S. CONSIDERS THAT ITS RELATIONS WITH GUATEMALA REMAIN ON A FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL BASIS. WE HAVE NOT TAKEN A POSITION ON THE MERITS OF EITHER SIDE'S CLAIM BUT HAVE BEEN URGING ALL THOSE INVOLVED TO REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER AND CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS. EMPHASIZE TO SANDOVAL THAT WE HAVE BEEN STRONGLY URGING THIS COURSE ON THE BRITISH AS WELL AS THE GUATEMALANS AND HAVE REPEATEDLY STRESSED TO THE U.K. OUR CONCERN OVER POSSIBLY DIRE CONSEQUENCES OF A U.N. RESOLUTION COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE TO GUATEMALA. U.K. HAS PROMISED TO KEEP IN CONTACT WITH GUATEMALA. KISSINGER

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